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NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW.

No. CCCLXXVII.

APRIL, 1888.

THE HOHENZOLLERN KAISER.

A GREAT monarch, after a long, victorious, and brilliant career, has succumbed to the irresistible forces of Death. Yesterday powerful, admired, loved, revered, to-day he is dust. His historic shade alone remains; but this, uncrowned though it be, is luminous with admirable qualities, which will win to his memory the unfailing admiration, love and reverence of mankind. WILLIAM VON HOHENZOLLERN, King of Prussia, and first Emperor of Germany, by divine right communicated through the people, has passed. His character and all his acts now belong to the domain of History. His memory will not be intrusted to marble alone, but will warmly rest in the hearts of coming generations of his countrymen, and will be cherished wherever Christian civilization prevails.

He was the second son of Frederick William III., and of that Queen Louise whose brave struggle against the first Napoleon is remembered, and whose lovely portrait is familiar to the world. This fit mother of kings wrote of him, while he was yet a boy of ten years: "Our son William, if I am not deceived, will be simple, loyal, and full of good sense, like his father." Born March 22d, 1797, his cradling was in the midst of the frightful echoes of the French revolution. A few years later, the French Dictator crossed the Rhine, and after the battle of Jena drove the royal boy with his mother from Berlin to a refuge in Königsberg. About this

time, at the age of ten years, he received his first commission in the army as sub-lieutenant.

In 1810, the Queen died, prostrated by defeats, by the Napoleonic humiliations, by hopelessness and homelessness. The Prince continued his military studies, and at the age of sixteen began active service in the army at the side of his father, pursuing the French across the frontier, and finally witnessing the great ovation in England with which the allied subjugators of Napoleon were received in 1814.

During the years of peace which followed the devastating wars of Napoleon, the Prince had leisure for travel, and profited largely by the instruction which he derived from it. At home he became accustomed to the simplicity of life which prevailed at his father's court. Economy of expenditure was indispensable. Prussia was greatly impoverished, from King to humblest subject. The French occupation, the patriotic war, the interruption of all productive industries, had drained alike the public treasury and the private purse. At that time, and ever afterward, the Prince, King, Emperor led an unostentatious life, maintaining only so much social ceremony as was requisite for the dignity of a court. This simplicity of life, the absence of softening self-indulgence, his devotion to duty and disregard of personal luxury, accompanied by persistent industry, have drawn closer the bonds which united him to his once impoverished and always industrious people.

At the age of twenty he became a member of the Council of State, and was advanced to the colonelcy of a regiment; and in 1825 he was further promoted to be general of division. In the meantime, in 1822, he accompanied his father to the Congress of Verona, where the royal autocracy of Europe condemned the political liberalism of the continent, and asserted their right to crush it, not only in their own kingdoms but wherever it should appear—a declaration which had its influence in bringing Mr. Adams to the counter-declaration of the “Monroe Doctrine.” In 1829 he married the eldest daughter of the Grand Duke of Weimar.

Noble in character and person as this princess was, the marriage was everywhere known to have been dictated exclusively by the interests of the state. The heart of Prince William had long since been seriously, even passionately, engaged to a very attractive and lovely Polish lady of an illustrious name. He long

persisted in his resolution to marry her. Unless born of a ruling family the statutes of his house prohibited the union. She was plainly not of royal lineage ; but learned men, in the interests of the Prince, sought to trace in her veins drops of the blood-royal of old Polish sovereigns. Other jurists denied the claim. It was then even proposed that she should be adopted as daughter by the bachelor brother of the late King of Prussia, thus making her a member of a royal family. The King's counsellors decided that this was no adequate substitute for descending blood. The statutes of the Hohenzollern house must be obeyed. There was no balance in the King's treasury for weighing royal hearts. The champions of the Prince were defeated at all points. The *coup de grace* was given by the Grand Duke of Weimar himself, whose younger daughter had married the younger brother of the Prince, and who now formally declared that if this Polish marriage should be completed, his court would assert the rights of the descendants of the younger branch to the Prussian crown, against those of the elder. The King appealed to the sense of duty in his son, and the cruel statute prevailed. At the age of thirty-two years the Prince gave his hand to this Lady of Weimar, whose intelligence and devotion to her royal and imperial duties have combined with his own to make his reign illustrious. But to the day of his death a Radziwill near his person and confidence has preserved the souvenir of the princess who was so near his heart.

In 1830 he received the command of the Prussian Corps of Observation sent to the Rhine in consequence of the Paris Revolution of July in that year. Ten years later the crown descended to his elder brother, Frederick William IV., who was already in middle life and childless. William, from this time, became the heir presumptive, and the object of more special interest on the part of his people. The new king appointed him President of the Council of Ministers, in addition to his rank and duty as President of the Council of State. While these functions did not withdraw him from his military interests, he was, nevertheless, much occupied, after the accession of his brother, by the rising questions of popular rights and liberties which were agitating the country and forcing the attention of the throne. The people were demanding of the new king the execution of the promises made to their fathers at the time of the expulsion of the French by the patriotic

devotion of the Prussians. In that hope they had endured their heavy sacrifices of blood and treasure. The late king, alarmed by the prevalence of liberal principles on the continent and not willing to offend his autocratic allies, had failed to redeem these promises. His favorite and grim old soldier, Blücher, had said : " Let us not spoil with the pen what we have won by the sword." The king, however, had pledged himself in 1820 to a statute which prohibited new loans and taxes without consent of popular representation. For want of them now the national development could not proceed. The advocates of liberalism were numerous and clamorous, and embraced nearly the whole enterprising middle class, and the entire press of the country. A constitution and national parliament were demanded. King and Prince opposed it. The former so far gave way as to authorize the assembling of the eight provincial diets. A commission proposed, among other things, to give to the assembled diets the right of petitioning the King. The Prince, thinking this to be a dangerous innovation, opposed it ; but, standing alone, he afterward yielded, with the observation : " Old Prussia is buried by the publication of this law. May the new Prussia become as powerful and great as was the old in the path of honor and of glory ! "

In the light of the closing nineteenth century it appears to us impossible that at its beginning monarchs could have failed to perceive the immense re-inforcement of power which an enfranchised and loyal people could bestow on the government of a nation. In the absence of that perception, they treated their subjects as their antagonists in interest and in action. The small ruling class was alone trusted to advise and protect the executive power. Both King and Prince, born and bred in the principles of absolutism, holding that a few selfish intellects, with hereditary prejudices and selfish interests, were wiser than the entire mass of an industrious and educated people, struggled obstinately against the popular demands. " We will never consent," said the Prince in 1847, " to grant to the Diet liberties and rights to the prejudice of those of the Crown." The King declared that he would never consent that a written parchment should be interposed between himself and his people. This experimental session of the Diet closed in bad temper, the assembly demanding more rights, instead of manifesting the expected gratitude for the parsimonious installment granted to them. In this condition of

public sentiment the Paris revolution of 1848 surprised Europe, and again shook all the thrones of the continent except that of Russia.

This sudden blaze of French revolt kindled the liberal fires in Berlin. Clamorous crowds filled the streets. Prince William, more than the unstable King, was regarded as the resolute head of the autocratic party, and was the object of profound dislike to the masses of Berlin. The King, fearing aggressions from beyond the Rhine, had just ordered the Prince to turn over the command of the body guard at the capital, and take command on the frontier. All this had been done when the tumult burst forth in Berlin. Somebody ordered the troops to charge on the assembled people. The result increased the popular exasperation to fury. The order was wrongly attributed to the Prince-royal, while the party really responsible was only too glad to be sheltered under the royal wings. The populace shouted "Death to the Prince!" The more moderate demanded his abdication of his future rights to the crown. At night the mob rushed upon his palace, intending to plunder and burn it. It was saved by the Parisian ruse of its defenders, who exhibited on the front balcony, in large letters, the sign "*National Property*." So bitter was the rage of the populace, so shattered were the royal councils, that the Prince's friends advised his immediate departure from the capital. The new ministry tendered the same advice. He replied that he would go into exile only upon the written order of the King. That order came in the form of a missive sending him to the English Court "to explain there the recent events in the Prussian capital."

Thus the Prince became an exile from his own country. Instead of availing themselves of his absence to soften and correct the public judgment against him, fear kept the Royalists silent. Interested leaders kept the resentment alive by wild reports that he was conspiring with the Czar to march an army on Berlin, and once even that he with the Russian army was approaching the gates of the city. The King was afterwards reported to have said: "In those days we were all lying on our bellies." The army was at fault, and the great wrath of the people was directed against the Prince as its chief.

Meanwhile William was in London, much fêted, and winning friendship and admiration by his intelligence, his frank manliness, and his *bonhomie*. The Prince Consort, Albert, at this

time wrote of him : " He is a noble, honest character, and quite attached to the new movement in Germany." He accepted the situation philosophically, and without moodiness. One day at dinner, when they were pushing to the table an arm-chair for him by way of personal distinction, he declined it with the smiling observation : " One must practice humility these days, when thrones are trembling."

This exile of the heir to the throne could not long be permitted, and especially while constitutional changes were under discussion affecting his hereditary rights. The liberal ministry feared its overthrow if an official recall should be sent to him. In various ways, however, his liberalized opinions were made public. The ministry finally advised his return, that his consent might be given to the measures proposed. One district elected him a deputy to the new Diet. He returned, and on the 8th of June he proceeded to take his seat in the Assembly, where the Conservatives alone arose as he entered, the Liberals receiving him seated and in silence. A remarkable spectacle,—the heir to absolute power seated as a member of a popular assembly, summoned to curtail and control his royal rights and privileges. So soon as the tribune was vacant the President gave the word to " the Deputy from Wirsitz." The Prince spoke briefly, and concluded with the following words : " The constitutional monarchy is the form of government which your King has recommended you to establish. I shall devote to it, with fidelity and conscience, all my strength, as the country has a right to expect from my character, which it knows well. Such is the duty of every friend of the Fatherland, such is especially mine as the first subject of the King. Under these conditions, may my presence among you be favorably received."

The discourse was listened to with plaudits on one side, with silence on the other. The Prince left the hall, and returned to it no more. So ended his exile, and so was he reintroduced to his countrymen. But many years were to elapse before Prince and people would stand on common ground, and with united hearts.

In October, 1857, the King was disabled by a stroke of apoplexy, and a regency became necessary. The old ministry, unwilling to surrender its authority, deferred the full regency provided by the Constitution, and persuaded the King to request his heir to administer the government temporarily in his name. The

Prince's loyalty induced him on three successive occasions to yield to this request. Upon the fourth demand he refused, and would only accept the constitutional regency. It was conceded. He then summoned a new ministry, dismissing the Tory cabinet to whose policy he was personally opposed. This antagonism was known to the people, and his action went far to restore popularity to the Prince. He took his oath as constitutional Regent on the 26th of October, 1858. From that time he was King *de facto*. By the death of the infirm old King on the last night of the year 1860, the Regent became King *de jure*, January 1st, 1861.

During this regency the short and decisive war of Italy and France against Austria excited the attention of all the cabinets. The relations of Prussia and Austria were such that the former had no desire to increase the prestige of her neighbor, nor to strengthen her grasp on the German federated states. On the other hand was the danger of strengthening the hostile power beyond the Rhine. The Regent's government steered a middle course, rebuking the Italian government for its disregard of the treaty of 1815, and troubling France by a corps of observation on the Rhine. There was one Prussian diplomat who at that time saw a wiser course of action for the interests of Prussia, and wrote of it in earnest language; but he was not yet Prime Minister. He was hunting bears with the Czar of Russia. His day was to dawn not long after. He clearly read in Italian unity the historic example for German unification. The Regent's government meanwhile was blinded by the traditions of 1815, and the recollections of Verona.

From this period William I. was preoccupied with one great solicitude, the reorganization of the Prussian army. The success and glory of Prussia had been won by her arms. The efficiency and strength of her army must be advanced. The King's military perception of its present needs was sharpened by his observation of the military operations in Italy. His efforts to remedy its defects were constant and energetic. The army question was then and has ever since continued to be the rock of dissension on which all proposals of union between the King and the Liberal party have been wrecked. The popular mind thoroughly appreciated the evils of conscription and taxation which were associated with a great military establishment. It would not correspondingly appreciate the dangers lurking in international relations and

ambitions, supported by a powerful military régime abroad. It seems the King would have admitted the Liberals to the power of Government if he could have found in them a hearty support of those measures of military reorganization which he believed indispensable to the preservation of Prussian rights against national rivalries on the south and west. He was resolved to exhaust all his constitutional rights, and even all his reserved hereditary powers, in the effort to elevate the Prussian army to the first rank, both in organization and in arms. This, and the maintenance of the executive prerogatives of the throne against all encroachments of the legislative branch of the Government, were the two strong purposes with which he began his reign. He would loyally observe his promises as Regent, and his obligations as constitutional Sovereign, but would take no step further in diminution of the powers which descended to him with the crown. In order to emphasize this resolution before all Germany, he proceeded for his coronation to Königsberg, where the first King of Prussia had been crowned 160 years before, and whither none since had gone to be crowned. To show that he meant to hold the power by divine right, he with his own hands took the crown from the altar and placed it on his head.

All this seemed to accentuate in the national mind the anti-liberal policy and purpose of the King. The masses of the intelligent middle class being fully impregnated with the principles of modern progress, this coronation awakened no enthusiasm, and his reign began, and for years continued, with a struggle against the principles of the age. Parliament refused him the laws and the credits which he required for the reorganization and increase of the army. Undeterred by this opposition, he fell back upon his general constitutional and retained powers, and proceeded with the reorganization, collected the usual taxes, and appropriated them to the public service according to the pre-existing budget.

There are few qualities of a sovereign so important as the power to discover and appreciate fit characters for the chief administrative functions. The possession of this faculty in a ruler is itself a quality of greatness. William I. has by this, as much as by his personal character, illuminated his career, and attracted the admiration of the world. For the execution of his plan of military reformation he found General von Roon, and

placed him at the head of the Department of War. To direct his forces in discipline and campaign he discovered General von Moltke, and put him at the head of his staff. The first nobly accomplished his task, and died some years before the King. The other still lives in a vigorous old age, loved and honored to the last by his royal chief, and with a military fame as wide as the world. Guided by these great administrators, and encouraged by the deep interest of the monarch, the army rapidly approached perfection.

But there remained a civil function equally important with the military, for which an equally able executive must be found. Foreign relations developed the burning questions of the time. Diplomacy could engender or avert war, gratify national pride, or produce national humiliation like that of Olmütz. Where should the King find the ideal man? It was in the autumn of 1862 that his famous trinity of chiefs was completed by summoning Otto von Bismarck to the presidency of his ministry.

Now proceeded in earnest the struggle with Austria for the leadership of the powerful German race. Vienna looked at Berlin and smiled at the pretensions of a Government which could not obtain from its own parliament either a military bill or a budget. They knew little of the creative vigor newly introduced into that Government. The haughty insistence upon the old order of things by the one power was now met by the other with a peremptory demand for a change. When change, in form, without substance for Prussia, was offered by the South, the North met it with positive refusal. Austria found in the new Prussia a rock on which the old federal barque was certain to be wrecked. The King's diplomacy had entirely changed in character. It had become precise and resolute instead of academic and verbose. There was a smell of gunpowder in every envelope addressed by Berlin to Vienna. The Austrian control of the German Federation approached its crisis.

The Danish War (1863-'5) into which German popular feeling forced both Prussia and Austria, compelled a truce to their diplomatic struggle, and for a time united their arms. But their conquests (as yet unjustified by rightful history) introduced new elements of discord and bitterness over the disposition of the spoils of war, which were settled only by the war of 1866 with Austria. Let it be recorded to the honor of King William that he under-

took both these wars with reluctance. The farther-seeing and less scrupulous statesmanship of his great minister prevailed. By the astounding victory of Königsgrätz, won under the eyes of the King, Austria was expelled from her place in the German Federation, and the Danish provinces gave to Prussia the coveted territory and ports on the two northern seas. The German standard was transferred from the hands of Francis Joseph to King William.

This sudden and complete success of Prussia in an active campaign of thirty days against a great military power, and her rapid diplomatic agreements with the German states which had been allied with Austria, amazed Europe. For military purposes Prussia sprang into the first rank of nations, having added to her own disciplined and splendid columns the forces of numerous minor states of Germany. France was greatly excited, but in the diplomatic struggle which followed was finally worsted, and left to nurse her wrath for the future. Every effort was made by William and by his minister to re-conciliate Austria, and to appease the wounded sensibilities of the South German governments. With the latter secret treaties were soon afterward signed, which put their important military strength into alliance with Prussia in case of the apprehended war with France.

The stream of events now paused at an epoch which gave breathing time, and space for reflection. The monarch who had been a secondary power in Europe had become great, and foremost in the observation of the whole continent. He could not have been more amazed at the rapidity of his elevation than he should have been at the transformation of his own political views and relations. He began his royal career, in 1861, with a fixed determination to hold fast his alliance with Russia, to keep friendship with Austria, to make only "moral conquests" in Germany, to adhere to the principles of divine right in hereditary monarchs, and to preserve the basis of territorial adjustments defined by the European Congress of 1815. In 1867 he found himself shaken from all save the first of these policies. He had himself been an effective agent in the humiliation of his Austrian neighbor, whom he had overthrown in war. He had recognized the new kingdom of Italy based on popular suffrage,—the divine right of the people; indeed had allied himself with this people's monarch to take jewels from the consecrated crown of the Austrian Empire. In aid of this enterprise he had even come to an understanding with

the French Emperor, who was an original and entire creation of universal suffrage ; for without his consent Victor Emanuel would not enter into alliance with even the legitimate Prussian Crown. He had overthrown hereditary German princes. By his own hand the remaining half of the treaty of 1815 was torn to shreds.

History, as interpreted by modern right, cannot condemn him for this acceptance of its principles. The law of the union of a race in self-defense, and for their common welfare, is now held to be of diviner origin than the right of a single individual to subjugate a race, or to wear its crown. Instead of this condemnation, history will admire the loyal hesitations which attended his conversion, and which display an honorable fear lest self-interest should obtain control over honorable convictions of duty. His conversion was further proved and consummated by the acceptance of a parliament elected by universal suffrage. Victor Emanuel and Italian unity had become, in fact, the model for William I. and German unity. The great Cavour was the precursor of the greater Bismarck. As the latter said to the Italian Ambassador in Paris, " If Italy did not exist, it would be necessary to invent it ! "

The King was well aware, and the future historian will affirm it, that the Prussian diplomatic triumphs immediately following the victory of Sadowa were due to the unmatched sagacity and boundless energy of this great minister, whose courage and rapidity of action were equal to those of the army. Neither Cæsar in the military velocity of his Gallic campaigns, nor the first Napoleon in his surprises of a dilatory enemy, win more of our admiration than this grand diplomatist deserves for the swiftness with which his genius crystallized into treaties and alliances with the German states the fruits of the great victory of Sadowa. When Europe, which was expecting an undoubted Austrian victory, awakened from the stupor into which the complete triumph of Prussia in the battle-field had plunged her cabinets, she saw a military union effected in Germany under the control of the Prussian King, who was now ready to confront the most powerful of his enemies. When the echoes of the needle gun died in the ears of Frenchmen, their Government, which had placidly awaited the moment when it should limit the results of the contest and receive its own territorial compensations, found only the words of despair, Too late ! Too late !

King William had now more than realized the primary objects of his rupture with Austria. He had undisputed control of the Duchies and their ports. The movements of his troops in Germany could no more be obstructed, north of the Main, by interjacent and hostile princes and kings. The cumbrous, dilatory and inimical Federal Diet no longer existed. The South German states were his military allies. All his prayers, all his desires were now for peace with all the world. Neither the German race, brave as it is, nor its royal chief loved war for its own sake. That union of the race which had long been the aspiration of the people was now nearly accomplished. The proposal of this war with Austria had been threateningly unpopular ; but under the blazing illumination of their military and diplomatic victories the patriotic ardor of the people elected a Parliament which promptly voted the supplies, and gave complete indemnity to the government for their illegal financial operations during the period when the budget had been refused. Grateful to the Divine Providence which had thus bountifully realized his hopes, William sought to consolidate the elements of peace in all international relations. For some years he was wholly successful.

But France did not recover from the unexpected defeat of her hopes of advantage from the Austro-Prussian contest. She felt herself humiliated by her neighbor's greatness. A certain national envy poisoned her breast. As one of her statesmen put it, "A nation, without becoming less, may be diminished by the aggrandizement of her neighbors." The Cabinet was worried. Anti-dynastic clamor increased the discontent of Paris. The French Emperor had a certain satisfaction in having snatched Venice from the contest, and thus completed his work for Italy ; but Frenchmen wanted more than this sentimental satisfaction. They demanded territorial compensation for themselves. They made unwearied demands on Prussia for indemnity on the Rhine, on the Belgian border, somewhere, anywhere. Prussia, after a semblance of yielding, from the moment when her military alliances with South Germany were completed, assumed a resolute tone : "No, not an inch of German soil." France then sought satisfaction in Luxembourg ; but, on the eve of success, the King of Holland declined, and the Paris Cabinet was defeated at all points. Prussia proceeded with the work of domestic and federal organization, but was often interrupted by French remon-

strances charging the Cabinet of Berlin with violations of the treaty of Prague by her arrangement with the South German states, and in her treatment of Schleswig. This had no other effect than to irritate the government of the King. Finally, Paris began negotiations at Vienna and Florence for an alliance offensive and defensive against Germany.

In this condition of affairs a new cause of irritation arose. The Constituent Assembly at Madrid was searching Europe for a King to rule that distracted country. Several royal lines were in vain invited to furnish a candidate for that throne, when General Prim turned to the Catholic branch of the Hohenzollerns of Prussia, and invited Leopold to accept the crown. King William, as head of the family, gave his assent to the candidacy, but without in any manner committing his Government to the proposition. The affair was soon made known at Paris by way of Madrid, and had the effect of a blazing torch in a magazine of powder. Paris was immediately ablaze. Imperialists, Republicans, Radicals, all shared the excitement. A Hohenzollern on the southern border of France as well as on the East—impossible, monstrous !

The French Ambassador, Benedetti, was dispatched to the King, at Ems. The truthful monarch told him the simple facts, involving no other participation on his part than a consent to the candidacy invited by Spain. For eight days there was a storm of telegraphic dispatches between Paris and Ems. From the first the King expressed his willingness to see the Prince retire. The French Cabinet insisted that he should himself forbid his acceptance. The King replied that having once given his consent he could not go back on his word, which had been communicated to Spain. But he would inform the Prince's father of the situation, and upon receiving his reply he would immediately inform the French Ambassador of the result. Instead of granting time for this communication the French ministry grew more and more pressing and peremptory. The King preserved his moderation of temper, and his position. Without unnecessary delay the young Prince's father telegraphed to Madrid that in view of the existing complications his son's candidature was withdrawn. From Madrid this was immediately telegraphed to Paris, before King William had received his reply. As soon as he received the response addressed to himself he made it known to the French Ambassador.

But the Duc de Grammont, apparently bent on war, instructed his Ambassador to demand from the King a pledge that the candidacy should not be renewed. The King replied that the withdrawal had his entire approbation, and needed nothing more. The demand for a positive royal pledge that the candidacy should never be renewed was repeated. The King, convinced that the desire existed at Paris to inflict a personal humiliation on himself, replied that the candidacy had been withdrawn with his unreserved approval, and without any *arrière pensée*, and more he could not say; and any further negotiations must be conducted through his Government. The Ambassador demanded his passports and took his formal leave at the railroad station, as the King was departing for Berlin.

On this minute point, involving neither her interest nor her honor, France proceeded to war, and suffered that defeat and dismemberment which constitute one of the tragic chapters of human history. Her Emperor lost his throne, while the German King won an imperial crown under the walls of Paris, and in the very palace which treasured the ancient glories of France. The crown of Charlemagne, withdrawn from the Hapsburgs and for sixty years suspended, now rested on the head of a Hohenzollern in the royal halls of Versailles.

The newly crowned German Emperor was himself amazed at the rapidity and the grandeur of the events which had borne him on their tide to an elevation far beyond his original ambition and his hopes. A firm believer in Divine Providence, he in his address to the officers attributed his success to that Divine Power "who has permitted us to be the instruments for accomplishing such high historic deeds." In announcing to the Empress the convention with France, which secured to Germany the provinces of Alsace and Lorraine, and the great war indemnity, he rendered homage to the "God of armies, who has everywhere blessed our undertakings, and given us success in a peace so honorable." To his ally in arms, the King of Saxony, he expressed his satisfaction "at the end of a war which was imposed upon us with a frivolity without parallel." To his imperial nephew of St. Petersburg he dispatched a glowing message of thanks, because by his efforts the war had been kept within narrow limits. "Prussia will never forget it. God bless you for it!" And then, after this and other grateful recognitions of the powers of heaven

and of earth by whose aid his magnificent achievements were accomplished, he broke up his quarters at Versailles, and departed for his own states. On arriving at their border he gave answer to the congratulations offered him, with quiet modesty and generosity : " For myself, I have been able to do but little ; the wisdom of Moltke and the intelligence of the generals have brought about the success which we have won."

The patriotic emotion excited by the war, the common shedding of German blood and their united deeds of arms, the universal joy of victory, all these had for a time welded the different sections of the German race, north and south, into fraternal relations. Party differences were at first almost silenced. But as time wore on troublesome internal questions began again to awaken the sensibilities of party. The government demanded a large military organization. The Empire had been created and the German union established by the army. By the army it must be maintained. Said Moltke : " What we have won in six months we must defend for fifty years. Our disarmament would be equivalent to war." Finally, the Emperor's policy prevailed, and in 1875 he could place himself, in case of war, at the head of two millions of armed men. But Parliament, while demanding other reforms, which were refused, grew more and more hostile, and the radical elements increased and the debates grew more bitter. Popular passions, in 1878, had become again greatly excited.

On the 11th of May of that year, a socialist assassin attempted the life of the Emperor, and failed. But on the 4th of June another repeated the attempt and grievously wounded the venerated monarch. The shock to all men of noble sentiments in the civilized world was very great. Prince Bismark, in an interview with General Grant, who was then in Berlin and expressed his horror of the crime, avowed the substantial feeling of the masses of Germans, and of all good men of other races. " Here is an aged man," said he, " one of the best men on the face of the earth ; yet they attempt his life. Never has a man existed of a character more modest, more generous, more humane. . . . It is not possible to find a finer type of gentleman, more noble, more amiable, more beneficent, ornamented with all the high qualities of a prince and the virtues of a man. I believed the Emperor could traverse his empire alone, and without the least danger. And yet, look, they try to kill him !" The world was

again shocked in 1883 by a third attempt on the Emperor's life at Rüdeshelm, while he was inaugurating a great patriotic monument to the honor of the German race.

In both his functions, as King and as Emperor, William repeatedly found himself in a sea of trouble. He persistently refused any interpretation of either constitution, royal or imperial, which conferred on the ministry, as in England, the power to govern with its related responsibility to the Legislature. He often protested that he had not given up, and would never abandon the hereditary right to rule, as well as to reign. The legislative bodies had their functions, but they did not include in any form the executive power. They could censure his ministry, and could refuse proposed laws, and budgets; but they could not overthrow his ministers. His Cabinet was responsible to himself, and not to the law-making power. Again and again he threw the weight of his great personality upon the consideration of pending questions, and claimed the right of participation in all appeals to the elective constituency. He would not agree to stand aloof from any popular interest, insisted on his right of contact with the people, and preferred to accept the consequences of hostility rather than rest in the lofty and inaccessible regions of irresponsibility, where many modern potentates have chosen to dwell, and find a lazy repose. When his loyal servants in the Cabinet were denounced and censured, he was prompt to cover them with the mantle of his great authority. While this loyalty to his own conscience created hostility to himself, which might have been averted by taking refuge in the cold realm of irresponsible inaction, his gallantry as a man, and the warm personality of his greatness, on the other hand, kindled an affectionate and personal interest in his people.

These great elements of his character were especially visible in his relation to the army. Every soldier of the little bands which daily marched by his palace in their rounds of duty, as they saw his paternal eye watching their movements from the famous *eckfenster* of his working room, felt that the sympathy of the man, as well as the eye of a king, was interested in their conduct. Every corps and regiment in their annual manœuvres knew that the heart of their King was with them, and swelled like their own with pride in observing the magnificent power and perfection of their drill. All his life a soldier, from his first

youthful decade, and by preëminence a commander-in-chief, he might have appropriated to himself the glory of his victories ; but he willingly saw the historical halo pass to the heads of his great generals. Progressively successful beyond all royalties of his long epoch, he never lost the balance of his upright and loyal character, nor the companionable simplicity of his early manhood. No vain desire to humiliate his adversary ever followed a victory ; rather a wish to heal the sensibilities his sword had wounded. He dreaded the shedding of German blood in fratricidal strife. Every other available hope must be exhausted before the final appeal to war. When that appeal was made, his home was with the army, his confidence in God, and his heart with his soldiers. Neither in peace nor in war did he seek the indulgence of ease and luxury. His palace never became the centre of social extravagance or enervating enjoyments. So much of courtly entertainment as his royal state required was given, and no more. His cabinet of work, looking on the monumental plaza, was his chosen room, and there was the centre of his daily interests. All this his people knew, and not without appreciation of its significance. Upon rumor of his illness, it was always before that window that his people appeared, and waited for the sight of his familiar and venerable face.

His personal participation in the dangers of a military campaign was not due to any calculated motive of giving inspiration to the soldiers by his presence. His heart drew him to their side, to the scene of their suffering, their peril and their glory. For, as he proudly said to General Grant, in 1879, "I, too, am a soldier." He was no conqueror of the Asiatic or Napoleonic type, loving destruction, waste and conquest and the acquisition of personal glory for their own sake. So soon as his campaign had accomplished its national object, he was more eager for peace than was his enemy. It was in reluctant obedience to the almost universal demand of the German race that he entered into the Danish contest. It was with the greatest difficulty, and after years of fruitless negotiations, that he was persuaded by his minister to embark in the Austrian war. Before his last and greatest campaign he advanced to the verge of self-humiliation to avoid the impending struggle with Napoleon III. After 1871, in the fullness of his greatest prestige and honor, he was prompt to make known to Europe that his empire would be devoted to the

interests of European peace. He kept his word. Again and again has the wise intervention of his imperial counsel averted a general conflagration, and brought hostile powers to a pacific adjustment of their grievances. When rumors of European wars arose, the eyes of all the Continents involuntarily turned to the government of Emperor William for the preservation of peace. For seventeen years his imperial rule has been a benediction to the peace-loving world.

If there be those in hades who shall meet this great shade with a reproachful exhibition of their wounds received in the brief months of his wars, there are many more entering that dark realm who may encounter the same noble shadow with blessings on their lips for their long untroubled years of peace.

What demons of war shall be unchained by his death we do not know. Loyal, honorable, courageous, patriotic and peace-loving, beyond all doubt, is his successor. Conscientious and brave as Frederick William is, and German to the core, can he, or, in fact, any successor, meet the waiting storm from beyond the Rhine as the great Kaiser met it, and conduct another German army to the gates of Paris? History holds her plume in hand to write the answer.

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